

Trip Journal: Los Angeles, CA

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Good morning. I spent several days last week in the Los Angeles area visiting with our frontline law enforcement and homeland security professionals. The departments and agencies out there are doing a phenomenal job working together to achieve our national security mission.

I paid a visit to the L.A. Joint Regional Intelligence Center, or JRIC, where I was impressed with what I've termed the 'jointness' of the different agencies and offices working out there. The JRIC is one of the 72 [State and Major Urban Area Fusion Centers](#) ^[1] nationwide that, together with FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces, are at the heart of our efforts to leverage inherent strength of our federated democracy and protect America. Impressed may be an understatement. This concept of 'jointness' gets at the heart of information sharing and is the hardest thing to achieve in the Information Sharing Environment. We can build interoperable networks and make it physically easier to share information, but if the actual frontline officers don't share a sense of team and mission, we fall short of our achieving our security goals. 'Jointness' is the secret ingredient, and the good men and women in L.A. area are a wonderful model as we strive to create centers of sharing excellence across the country.

I was proud to see the high degree of intelligence and information sharing and close operational work being done by law enforcement at Federal and local levels as well as local fire and public safety organizations. Members from so many communities, from the [FBI](#) ^[2], [U.S. Coast Guard](#) ^[3], [TSA](#), ^[4] and the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, to the L.A. [Police](#) ^[5], [Sheriff's](#) ^[6] and [Fire](#) ^[7] Departments work hand in hand to secure the citizens of the L.A. area every day. I also got to see LA CLEAR in action. LA CLEAR is a [Regional Information Sharing System \(RISS\)](#) ^[8] node - a federally-funded information sharing program that supports law enforcement efforts in combating crime and is a core capability in achieving our information sharing mission.

Later I had the opportunity to receive an [Advanced Imaging Technology \(AIT\)](#) ^[9] screening at LAX airport, a technology that helps keep the traveling public safe as one of TSA's layers of security. I was assured that TSA has implemented [strict measures](#) ^[10] to protect passenger privacy, which is ensured through the anonymity of the image.

More on my time with the U.S. Coast Guard in my post next week.

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